

ALL IN COLOUR - MAKES LEARNING A JOY

Once Upon a Time

EVERY WEDNESDAY

No. 16 • 7th March, 1970

PRICE 1/3

Read White and Rose Red —
on page 15



The Water Babies



1. Tom found a crayfish to talk to. He had never seen one before and thought it a most curious creature. He asked him about the water babies. "Yes," the crayfish told him, "I have seen them often but don't think much of them. They are rather meddlesome little creatures, always going around helping fish and shells which get into trouble. I have lived long enough to take care of myself." The crayfish was a conceited fellow, but Tom was so lonely that he talked to him for many hours a day.



2. About this time there happened to Tom a very strange and important adventure. You will not have forgotten the little girl in the bedroom of the big house, who was the cause of Tom being forced to run away and become a water baby. Her name was Ellie. One day she came to the shore with a very wise old professor, who knew all about the little sea-creatures and caught them in a net to take home and look at later.



3. "I like playing with children best," said Ellie, who was a little bored. "There are babies on land, so why are there no water babies?" "Because there aren't," replied the professor quite sharply. A little angry with Ellie, he groped under some weeds with his net—and caught poor Tom!



4. He fished out the net with Tom inside it. "Dear me," gasped the professor, as he fished Tom out of the net. "It's a sink thing and it has hands. It actually has eyes, too. It must be a cephalopod." In case you do not know, a cephalopod is the name given to such things as oysters, snails and limpets. Tom did not like to be called names like that. "No, I'm not," he cried as loud as he could.



5. "It's a water baby," said Ellie. "Water fiddlesticks, my girl," said the professor. Tom had been in a most horrible fright all the while. He was terrified that the man might put clothes on him and make a dirty little chimney sweep of him again. When the professor poked him it was more than he could bear, so he bit his finger hard. "Oh, yah!" cried the professor.



6. He let go of Tom, who dropped into the water and swam off. "It WAS a water baby and I heard it speak," said Ellie. "Oh dear, now it's gone." She tried to catch Tom, but she was too late. What was worse, as she jumped off a rock she slipped and fell some six feet. Before the professor could grab her, Ellie hit her head on a rock and lay quite still.



7. The professor picked Ellie up and tried to waken her, calling to her and crying over her, for he loved her very much. She would not waken at all, so he took her up in his arms and carried her home. The professor knew that he should have agreed with Ellie, admitting his mistake. He should have said, "Yes, Ellie, it seems that there is such a thing as a water baby."



8. Little Ellie was put to bed and they tried to nurse her well again, but all she did was to wake up now and then and call out about the water baby. Nobody knew what she meant. The doctors were puzzled about it, but the professor did not say, for he was too ashamed to tell. Poor Ellie! She grew paler and paler and weaker and weaker and seemed to think of nothing but water babies.

9. After a week, one moonlight night, the fairies sent for Ellie. Two of them came to the house and they flew with Ellie out of the window. Very gently they carried her over the land and sea and up through the clouds until they disappeared from sight. Nobody heard of Ellie, or saw anything of her, for a long time after that. But in the meantime, what was happening to our little Tom?



10. He came one day to a sort of wicker basket and inside it he saw his old friend the crayfish. "Have you been naughty? Have they put you in prison?" asked Tom. The crayfish told him that he had climbed in after a bit of dead fish and could not get out. Tom looked at the trap, being a lot cleverer than the crayfish, he could see how to get him out. "Thank you," said the crayfish. "You are really most kind."

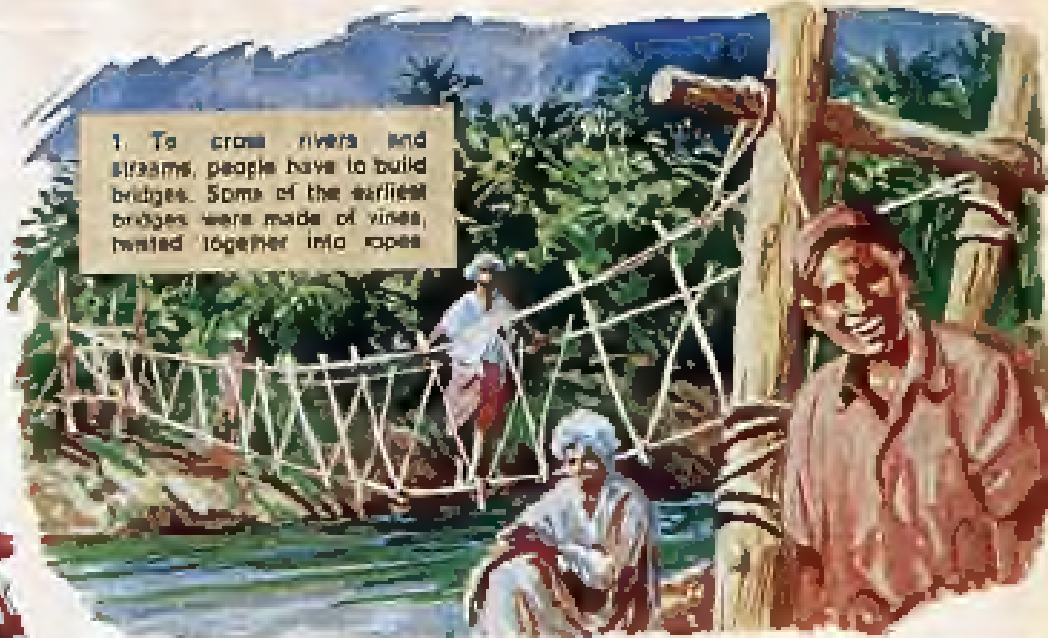
At last Tom has found another water baby. More of this delightful story next week.



11. A few minutes later there happened a most wonderful thing. Tom had not left the crayfish for more than five minutes when he came upon a real live water baby, kneeling on the beach, doing something to a piece of rock. When it saw Tom, it said, "Why, you are a NEW water baby." "I have been looking for you so long and been so lonely," said Tom, running to it.

All Sorts of Bridges

1. To cross rivers and streams, people have to build bridges. Some of the earliest bridges were made of vines, twisted together into ropes.



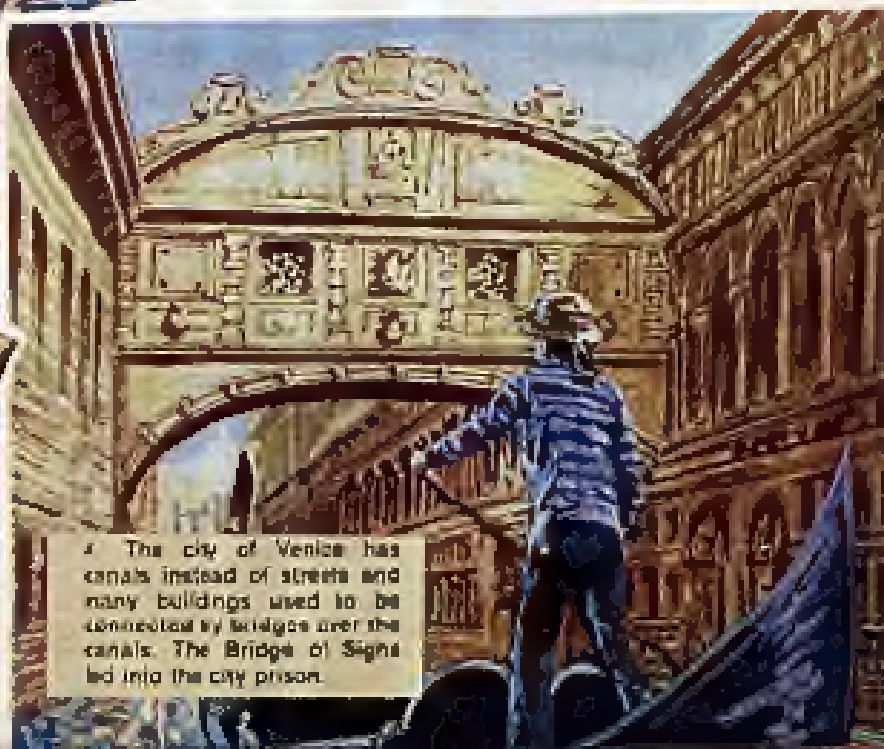
2. Long ago, a Persian king, Xerxes, wanted to cross a sea channel, so his soldiers put hundreds of boats side by side and placed a floor over the top to make a floating bridge.



3. The Romans built fine, big bridges. Some carried water and were called aqueducts. This Roman bridge, at Pont du Gard in France, carried both a road and water.



4. The city of Venice has canals instead of streets and many buildings used to be connected by bridges over the canals. The Bridge of Sighs led into the city prison.





5. Railways also have to be carried over rivers and the Forth Bridge in Scotland, a cantilever bridge over a mile long, was built to carry the railway over the river.



7. Sydney Harbour Bridge, which is in Australia, has a huge steel arch as its main support. It has a span of 1,650 feet.

6. Some bridges are not high enough to let tall ships pass beneath them, like Tower Bridge in London, so they open to let ships pass underneath and then close again.



8. A suspension bridge, like the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, hangs from heavy cables. The cables are ropes made of many strands of wire.

BRER RABBIT

The Barbecue. By Barbara Hayes.

NOW once upon a time, in the land where Brer Rabbit lived, all the animals started to be mighty short of food. It had been a long, cold winter and although the weather was beginning to feel warmer, no fresh food had had time to grow.

The only person in the land who had plenty of food was Mr. Man.

He always stored away enough food to last him through the winter and the springtime too.

But, of course, Mr. Man didn't give any of his food to the animals.

Quite the other way around. He stored his food away behind locked doors, so that the animals had no chance of getting at it at all.

But, of course, there was one little animal who fancied that he was clever enough to help himself to some food.

Can you guess who it was?

It was Brer Rabbit, of course.

Brer Rabbit looked into his larder and saw that the only food he had was two small potatoes.

So he put them into his pocket and went over to Mr. Man's house.

That was a funny thing to do, wasn't it—to take food to Mr. Man's house, when all he really wanted to do was to take

food from Mr. Man's house?

But Brer Rabbit was a bright little chap, as you know, and if you read on, you will see that he was really being very clever.

When he reached Mr. Man's house, Brer Rabbit first waited for Mr. Man to go out to his work in the fields.

Then Brer Rabbit made a fire with dry sticks, put some bricks on either side, some wire fencing over the top and put his two small potatoes to roast on the wire fencing.

What he made was actually called a barbecue. Did you know that?

Anyway, very soon the roasting potatoes started to smell delicious and very soon after that Mr. Man's little girl came out and watched Brer Rabbit from over the garden fence.

"Those potatoes do smell nice," said the little girl.

"Yes, barbecuing makes food taste twice as yummy as any other way of cooking," replied Brer Rabbit.

Then he went on, "This fire is lovely and hot and I could cook all the food for your daddy's dinner on it, if you would like me to."

"Could you really?" asked the little girl and in a moment she had dashed into



the house and fetched out sausages and vegetables.

"Will these be all right to cook?" she asked. "My daddy usually likes them done in a frying-pan."

"Good gracious me, that's not the right way at all," said Brer Rabbit. "Frying-pans make sausages pop open their skins and get all burnt and hard like roasted cardboard."

"M'm—I suppose so," the little girl nodded. "I'd better do them in your special barbecue way."

She gave them to Brer Rabbit, and in a moment he had them roasting over his fire.

"My, they did smell good!"

Well, when the food was almost ready, one of Brer Rabbit's little children came dashing up.

"I just passed Mr. Man in the fields," he said, "and he said to me that he could smell lovely food roasting and it smell so good he couldn't wait till dinner time. He wanted the food taken out to him in the fields at once."

Of course, Mr. Man hadn't really said that at all.

Brer Rabbit had told his little rabbit to say that as part of the artful plan he had thought of.

At first the little girl looked worried.

"Daddy says I am not allowed to go out into the fields unless he is with me," she said, "so how can I take the food to him?"

"Don't worry," smiled that cunning Brer Rabbit. "I will take the food out to your daddy and you stay safely in the garden."

Of course, the little girl was very pleased at that and she allowed Brer Rabbit and his baby rabbit to walk off with all the lovely food.

You can guess what happened, of course. Brer Rabbit took the food home and he and his family ate it all up. They really did enjoy it, because they were very hungry.

How cross Mr. Man was when he came home and found out what had happened, but then he thought:

"Oh well, I have plenty of food. I suppose I can spare some for that hungry little scamp."

Although Brer Rabbit did some artful things sometimes, Mr. Man had to chuckle when he thought about them.

Then he put some more wood on Brer Rabbit's fire and he and his little girl had a barbecue dinner of their very own.

It was lovely.

There will be another Brer Rabbit story to make you smile next week.

BRER RABBIT'S RIDDLES

1. What would you say if you wanted to start a Teddy Bear race?
2. When is a clock like an angry snake?
3. Why does the railway inspector punch a hole in your ticket?
4. What flower reminds you of a very smart-looking lion?
5. Which American State's round at the ends and high in the middle?

Answers:

1. "Good-bye!" 2. "What a lovely day!" 3. "To let you through." 4. "A daisy." 5. "Kentucky!"

ARE YOU MISSING SOME COPIES OF "ONCE UPON A TIME"?

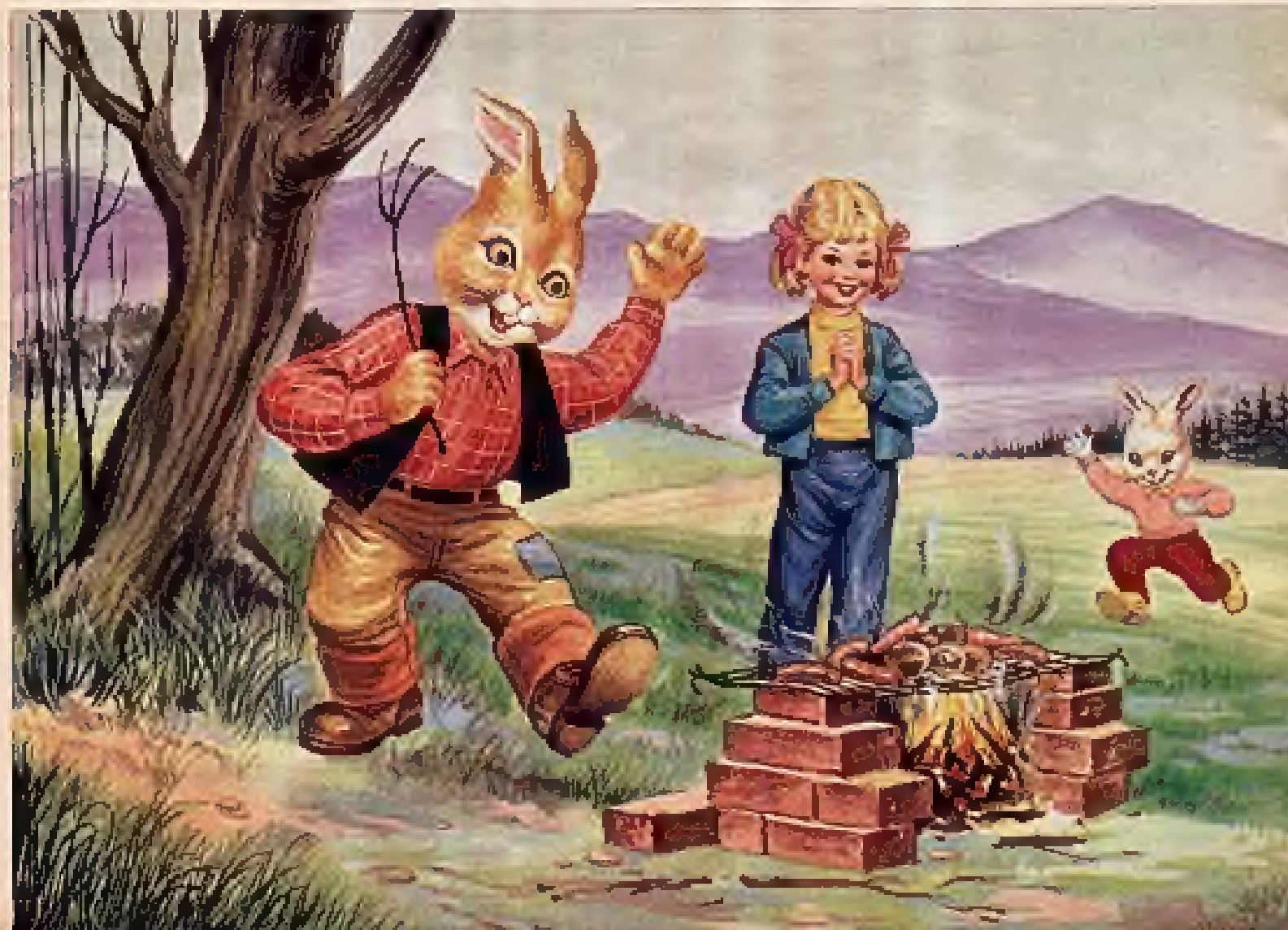
If you are, and would like the back numbers to complete your collection, the address to write to is: City Magazines, Aldwych House, 81, Aldwych, London, W.C.1. The cost is 1/8d, each, including postage.

YOUR EDITOR'S LETTER

Dear Boys and Girls,

What a lively youngascal our Brer Rabbit is! Have you any friends who are like him? Next week in "Once Upon A Time" there will be another enjoyable story. Best wishes to you all,

The Editor.



Cocoa



The brown powder which we call cocoa comes from the cacao tree, which is mostly grown in South America. These trees grow up to a height of 40 feet and bear reddish-yellow pods about 6 inches to 12 inches long. These are collected from the trees by means of a curved blade on a long pole. Inside the pods is a pulpy mass, which contains hard seeds. It is from these seeds that cocoa is made. The seeds are roasted and then ground into a fine powder. At one time in South America, the ancient Aztec people used the seeds as money.



Powdered cocoa makes a tasty hot drink and bars of delicious chocolate for us to eat.



FAMOUS NAMES

Facts to interest you about people, things and places.



1. **The Wright Brothers.** On December 17th, 1903, two American brothers, named Orville and Wilbur Wright, made the first successful flight in an aeroplane, which they made themselves. They flew it three times and the longest flight, made by Wilbur, lasted for 59 seconds. The flight took place at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.



2. **Roundheads.** In 1642 civil war broke out in England. On one side was the King, Charles the First, and those who supported him, called Cavaliers, and on the other side was Parliament and the Puritans, nicknamed Roundheads because most of them wore their hair cut short. The Roundheads defeated the King.



3. **The Vikings.** About a thousand years ago, groups of fierce men in long ships, began attacking the coasts of Europe. They came from the countries we now call Norway and Denmark and were called Vikings, or Norsemen. Most of them were pirates and adventurers, in search of plunder.



4. **Windsor Castle.** The building of it was started by William the Conqueror. His wooden structure was replaced with stone walls and towers by Henry the Second and Henry the Third. The castle has always been the home of English sovereigns and many are buried in St. George's Chapel there.

This is a Memory Test. When you have read the story, see how much you remember of it by trying to answer the questions on page 18.

The Boston Tea Party

ON a cold, rainy afternoon in December, 1773, some forty or fifty people were very busy in a print shop in Boston. First they stripped off their clothes and put on the clothes and head-dresses of Red Indians. Then they took the printer's ink and smeared it on their faces, just like war paint. Then these "Mohawk Indians", as they called themselves, made their way to the Old South Church in Boston.

About seven hundred Americans had gathered in the church. Those who could not get in stood side in the wet street. The chief speaker was Boston man Sam Adams. He believed that Americans had the right to rule themselves, and did not be ruled by Britain, as they were then. He was against the taxes which the British Government were trying to make the Americans pay. "We elect no members of the British Parliament so it has no right to tax us," he said. "It makes us no better than slaves."

Everyone at the meeting knew that three British ships had just entered Boston Harbour, carrying several hundred chests of tea. One of the new taxes was on tea. Sam Adams said that no tea would be paid on the tea and all his hearers shouted and cheered in agreement. One of the men went to see the Governor, but he would not help. He would not send the tea back and said that tea tax on it must be paid.

When they heard this, the "Mohawks" gave great war cries and rushed off to the wharf where the British ships were tied up.

Darkness had fallen, but there was plenty of light from the moon and they quickly climbed aboard the three ships, dragged the chests of tea up on to the decks and threw all the tea into the harbour. It took them several hours, because there were 342 tea chests to empty. But before dawn, the "Mohawks" had finished and gone back to their homes to remove their war paint.

Since the "Mohawks" were dressed in Indian clothes and covered in war paint, no one had been able to get a good look at them and all the people of Boston pretended they did not know who the "Mohawks" were.

The British Government was very angry about the "tea party" and as a punishment closed the port of Boston. It was not long before the Americans declared war on the British. This was the American War of Independence and when it was over, in 1783, America had won and become an independent country.





J. ARCAS

The Little Red Hen



1 Once there lived a Little Red Hen who had five chicks. Every morning she was up early cleaning and cooking and washing, and her five chicks helped. Nearby lived a pig, a cat and a duck. They liked to sit in the sun all day and do nothing.



2 One day Little Red Hen found an ear of fine corn. "Look what I have found," she said to the pig. "It must be planted," the pig replied. "Who will help me?" asked the hen. "No!" said the pig, so the hen planted it and her chicks helped.



3 The corn grew tall and strong. "How it must be weeded," said the hen. "Who will help me?" asked the hen. "No!" said the lazy cat and went to sit in the warm sunshine. So the hen had to weed the corn herself and her five chicks helped her.



4 At last the corn was ripe and golden. "It must be reaped," said the duck. "Who will help me reap it?" asked the hen. "No!" quacked the duck and went waddling away. So Little Red Hen then had to reap the corn herself and her five chicks helped her.



5 Soon there was a heap of good corn. Now it must be threshed, said the pig. "Who will help me thresh it?" asked the hen. "Not I," said the pig and went to sleep in the sun. So little Red Hen threshed the corn herself and her five chicks helped her.



6 When the corn was threshed the cat came along and said, "Now it must be taken to the mill to be ground." "Who will help me carry it?" asked the hen. "Not I," said the cat. So little Red Hen and her chicks had to carry the corn all the way to the mill to grind it.



7 They brought back a bag of fine flour. Now it must be baked, said the duck. "Who will help me bake?" asked the hen. "Not I," replied the duck. So little Red Hen began to bake a cake and the five chicks helped. Soon there was a good smell of cake.



8 The pig, the cat and the duck snarled and sat up. They went to the table. "Just a minute," said the hen. "Who found the corn, planted and reared it? It got the flour and baked the cake? Did I and my five chicks, so we shall eat it all. And they did."



Beautiful Paintings

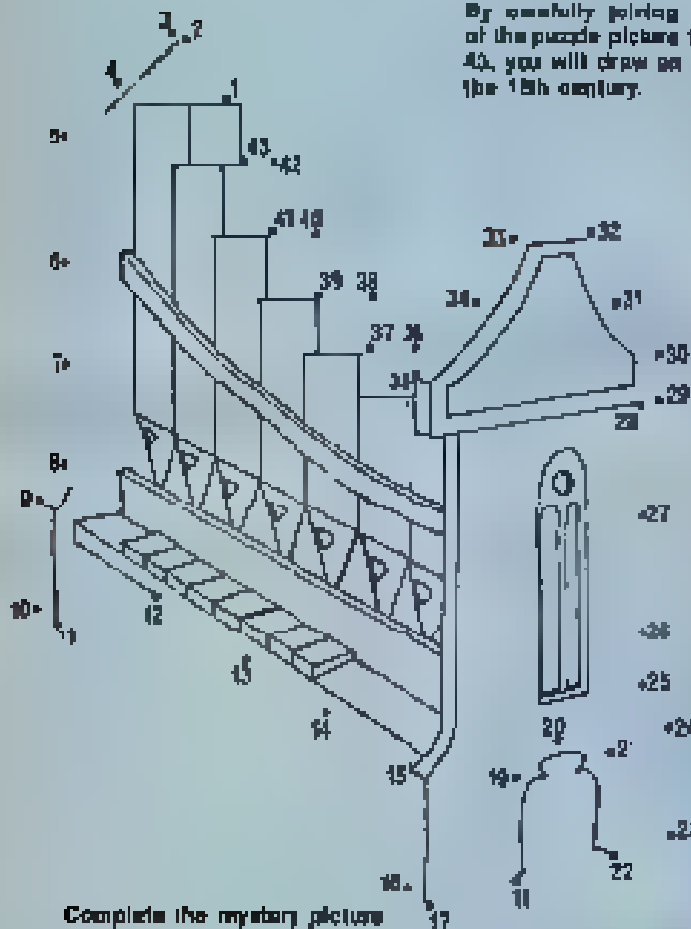
If you are collecting the beautiful paintings which we print in *Once Upon A Time* every week, there is one which you should not miss. It can be cut out and hung on a wall or pasted into a scrapbook. The painting is by Kurt Meyer-Eberhard and is called "Hares In The Snow". Hares are long-eared, short-tailed rodents (a name given

to animals with special front teeth which they use to gnaw their food) larger than rabbits. Hares are very hardy animals and seem to be quite happy in snow. In cold countries, such as Greenland and Iceland, they are called snow hares. *The delightful painting is the copyright of Franz Hanfstaengl, Munich.*

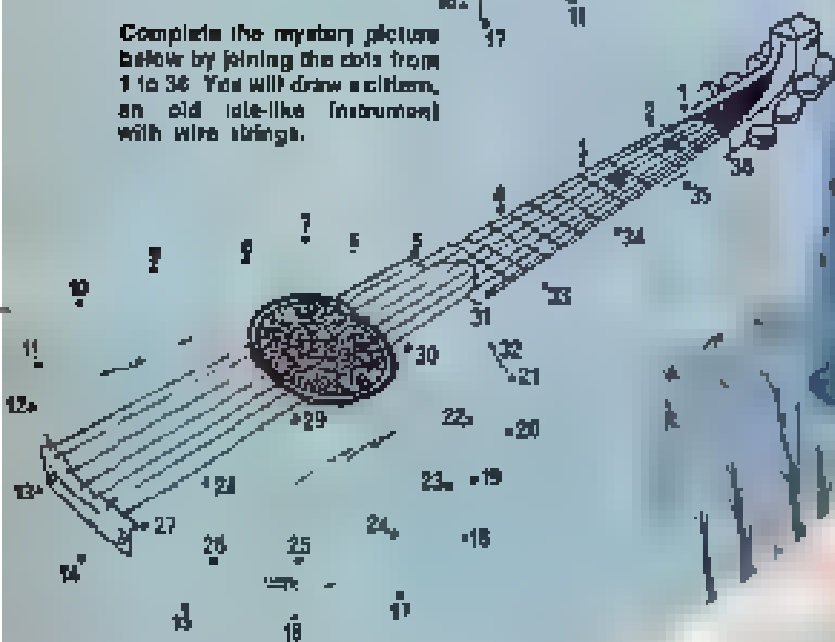
Catherine of Valois

The lady wearing the splendid head-dress and lovely gown trimmed with ermine fur was the wife of the English King Henry the Fifth. She was his Queen for three years from 1420 to 1422.

By carefully joining the dots of the puzzle picture from 1 to 43, you will draw an organ of the 15th century.



Complete the mystery picture below by joining the dots from 1 to 36. You will draw a lute, an old lute-like instrument with wire strings.





The Tom House and the Country House

This week, Stephanie, the town mouse, takes Rex the Wracker back to his country.

By Barbara Hayes.

"W HAT A D Wretched mouse are you!" came a voice. Winifred wrinkled.

It was Stephanie, the town mouse who was sitting at the end of the table where the town mouse and the country mouse sat.

Rex the Wracker was sitting on the floor of the kitchen.

And, with her other hand, Stephanie kept a tight hold on Rex the Wracker. Do you remember Rex?

He is the little boy mouse who is always breaking or kicking or knocking over everything he goes near.

In a moment the front door opened and Winifred peeped out.

She was amazed, when she saw Stephanie and Rex the Wracker.

"Why, our Stephanie! What are you doing here?" she gasped. "And what is Rexie doing with you. I didn't think you liked him very much."

"Like him?" snapped Stephanie. "I dread the sight of the little monster—I mean, little chap."

But do you know what his wretched mother has done? She has sent him to stay with me while she goes for a few days to stay with Aunt Emily. And without even asking me first! What a cheek! But won't you put up with it. Why if he stayed in my house for half an hour he would wreck it. He isn't called Rex the Wracker for nothing, you know."

Winifred began to look a bit uneasy. "I hope you haven't brought Rexie to stay with me," she said. "I haven't been feeling well lately, you know, and it just

don't seem to me to have the right watch—mean, dear little fellow—to stay with me at the moment."

Oh don't bore me with your silly excuses, snapped Stephanie. "I know you don't want Rex any more than I do. What I want you to do is to help me to find his mother. You see, Rex says that she has gone to stay with Aunt Emily. But I can't remember where Aunt Emily lives. I haven't seen her since—was a little girl and you know I can never be bothered to write letters to dreary old aunts, but you always keep up with a story for me. So I'll write to her. I'll give her the address and Rex and I will be on our way."

As it happened, Winifred was very good at writing to old aunts, but wasn't very good at remembering where she had put her letters.

"How Aunt Emily's address will be on the last letter she wrote to me, which was at last apple-bottling time," said Winifred. "and I'm sure I put that letter in with the family photographs."

So out had to come the box of old letters and photographs and Winifred and Stephanie had to search through them to find the last letter from Aunt Emily.

And can you see what Rex the Wracker was doing, while they were busy? He was busy too.

He played with the coal, then wiped his dirty hands all over Winifred's washing.

Then, when Winifred told him to go indoors and wash his hands, he left the kitchen tap running and then finished things off by pulling Winifred's knitting undone. What a naughty little boy he is!

Anyway at last the letter was found. Fortunately it turned out that Aunt Emily only lived in the next village and there was a bus going there in five minutes.

Stephanie had thought on the bus as quick as lightning, can tell you.

Up to Aunt Emily's front door they marched and very soon Stephanie was

darning Rex the Wracker up in his mother's lap.

Why Stephanie said her mother hoped that she would find her mother.

It is true. Rexie's mother said it was other people's fault that he did such naughty things and didn't think his mother was at all.

It was a relief to Stephanie for Rexie to stay with me at the moment, at the moment," said Stephanie in a firm voice. "We think we are sickening for something."

Oh what a shame, sighed Rexie's mother. "I thought a veil from a lady who knows the house was just what you needed to cheer you up. Never mind. I was beginning to feel a bit homesick myself. So now Rexie and he are off to his mother's father."

So it went. Rex and his mother both happy to be together again.

And Stephanie stayed and had a nice tea and sat with Aunt Emily, who was really a jolly old auntie, and very pleased to see Stephanie.

She was also very pleased that Rex the Wracker had found his mother.

So the day ended with everyone being happy.

There will be another mouse adventure next week.

Here are the Memory Test questions from the story. The names The Party on page 6 has been changed you can answer them check back to see if you were right.

1. What did the men use to paint their houses in 1800 (use numbers)?
2. Can you remember the name of the church they went to in Boston?
3. How many tea parties were there on the ships to be completed?
4. What was the name of the Boston tea party (use words)?



Rose White and Rose Red



1. In the summertime, after the bear which had sheltered in their cottage had gone, Rose White and Rose Red went into the forest to collect some wood for their mother. They got all they needed quite quickly and were on their way home when they saw a little dwarf with his long beard caught in a tree trunk.



2. "Help!" the dwarf was shouting. "Can't you see that I'm all caught up? Come and free me at once. Don't just stand there doing nothing, you silly girls." Rose White and Rose Red rushed to help him. They tugged at his beard and tugged at his shoulders, but however hard they pulled they could not free him.



3. Not knowing what else to do, Rose White and Rose Red dashed home to their mother. She gave them a pair of scissors and told them to cut the little dwarf free. Back they rushed into the forest and started to cut the little man's beard free from the tree trunk. "This is the only way to do it," said Rose Red.



4. When the dwarf was set free, he picked up a bundle and went away without a word of thanks. "Now look what you've done, you silly girls," he grumbled. "You have quite spoilt the shape of my beard by cutting the end off." "What a horrid, bad-tempered little man," Rose White and Rose Red thought to themselves.



5. Next day the sisters were walking in the countryside, when they again heard cries for help. This time the dwarf was fishing in a pond and his beard had become caught up in the fishing line just as he had hooked a large fish. The fish was trying to get away and each time it wriggled it gave the dwarf's beard a sharp tug.



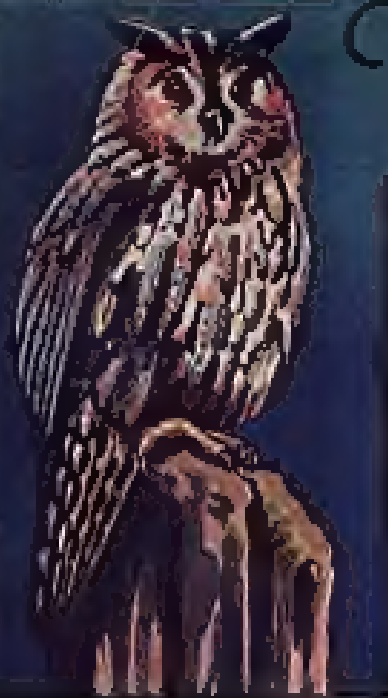
6. "Don't just stand there doing nothing, you silly girls," the dwarf said again. "Help me." To Rose White and Rose Red it seemed that there was only one thing to be done about it, so they ran home and got their mother's scissors for the second time, and set about snipping off another piece of his whiskers.



7. So the dwarf was set free once more, but again he did not stop to thank the two girls. "A fine mess you've made of my lovely beard," he grumbled, shaking his fist as he picked up his bundle and strode away. "You've quite ruined the shape of it."

Who is the strange dwarf? You will find out in next week's part of this story.

8. "What a rude little man you are," said Rose Red. For a while they left quite upset. But being so good and kind, they were soon ready to forgive the dwarf for his bad manners, though they hoped that they would never be asked to help him again.



The WISE OLD OWL

Knows all the answers

The WISE OLD OWL knows all the answers to puzzling questions which are often asked.



1. Is it true that we need to eat salt?

"Salt is so easy to get today that we hardly ever stop to think about it. But hundreds of years ago it was not at all easy to get and so it was very precious. Roman soldiers were paid part of their wages in salt and the Roman word for salt was 'sal', from which we get our word salary, or wages. Salt is a food we all need to keep our bodies healthy. At one time, criminals in Sweden were allowed to choose between being executed for their crimes or going without salt for a month. If they chose to go without salt, they usually became ill and died."



2. What is a mudskipper?

"In the swampy regions of Asia, Africa and Australia, there lives a fish which has front fins that look almost like legs. At times, these fish rise to the surface for air and then they will 'walk' ashore, supporting themselves on their fins. The fish then skip about on the mud, so getting their name mud-skipper. They move so quickly that they are hardly ever caught."



3. Where did Goldfish come from?

"Goldfish seem to have been known first in China, many centuries ago. The first natural goldfish, members of the carp family, were greeny-bronze and grew to about 12 inches long. In the 4th century cross-breeding began, to produce goldfish of different colours, shapes and sizes. Goldfish were not brought to Europe until the late 17th century."



4. Why do soldiers not march in step on a bridge?

"When on the march, soldiers keep in step, but when they reach a bridge they fall out of step, because the constant beat of their feet marching together could make the bridge vibrate and swing. This would throw such a strain on some parts that it might break."



5. Where does Pepper come from?

"Pepper comes from a climbing plant, which botanists call *Piper nigrum*. It bears berries called peppercorns. These are gathered, dried and then ground down to make pepper. For white pepper, the black skin of the berry is removed before it is ground."